

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 PM-04
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 MCT-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
DODE-00 /087 W
-----191748Z 081842 /42

R 190915Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2700
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1313

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR ON ME SETTLEMENT

1. IN LENGTHY CONVERSATION WITH ME MAY 16 EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR
CHOUCRI REPEATED FAMILIAR THEMES OF CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET PENETRATION
OF AFRICA, ESPECIALLY INTO ETHIOPIA AND LIBYA, AND NEED FOR ME
SETTLEMENT THIS YEAR. CAIRO'S MAIN CONCERN AT THIS TIME,
HOWEVER, IS OVER THE SUDAN-ETHIOPIAN SITUATION AND THE POSSIBILITY
EGYPT MAY BE DRAWN INTO IT.

2. IN DISCUSSING ME SETTLEMENT, CHOUCRI EMPHASIZED THAT ISSUE
OF JERUSALEM WOULD REMAIN A MAJOR PROBLEM BECAUSE THE SAUDIS ARE
INFLEXIBLE IN THEIR POSITION. IN THE END, HOWEVER, CHOUCRI
BELIEVED THE SAUDIS WOULD ACCEPT DE FACTO THE SETTLEMENT
AGREED TO BY OTHER ARAB STATES, REGARDLESS OF THE STATUS IT GIVES
JERUSALEM, ALTHOUGH THEY MIGHT REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE IT OFFICIALLY.
CHOUCRI SEEMED CONFIDENT THAT DEMILITARIZED ZONES IDEA
WOULD PROBABLY PROVE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL SIDES.

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3. CHOUCRI ALSO MENTIONED THAT YASIR ARAFAT HAD AN UNPUBLICIZED
MEETING WITH CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY SECRETARY BILAK AT
PRAGUE AIRPORT A SHORT TIME AGO; PRESUMABLY FOLLOWING ARAFAT'S
VISIT TO POLAND. CHOUCRI ADDED THAT PRINCIPAL SIGNIFICANCE OF
RECENT MEETING HERE BETWEEN PLO REPRESENTATIVE AND ISRAELI
CP REPS (PRAGUE 1168) WAS THAT THIS TIME IT WAS OPENLY ANNOUNCED.

HE SAID SIMILAR MEETINGS HAD TAKEN PLACE BEFORE.

4. WITH RESPECT TO GOC CONTACTS WITH ARAB STATES, CHOUCRI INDICATED PRESIDENT HUSAK WOULD SOON BE VISITING SYRIA AND IRAQ. (FRG DCM GIESDER TELLS US MFA PROTOCOL HAS INDICATED THAT THIS VISIT WILL BEGIN MAY 27). HUSAK'S ANTICIPATED TRIP TO ALGERIA WILL TAKE PLACE LATER THIS YEAR, ACCORDING TO ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR SAHLI. MEANWHILE, HUSAK, PREMIER STROUGAL AND OTHER CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERS HAVE GIVEN RED CARPET WELCOME HERE TO LIBYAN PEOPLE'S CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARIAT MEMBER JALLUD DURING HIS MAY 16-17 VISIT TO PRAGUE.
BYRNE

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